

sies of a civil nature, but because of their generous services they do have rights in county hospital affairs and do expect to be heard and recognized when the standards of their profession and the public hospitals in which they give massive gratuitous aid come up for discussion. In this instance it has been gratifying to note that the Los Angeles County Medical Association took a firm stand on the basic principles and facts which seem to be involved in the county hospital situation of Los Angeles County.

**PUBLIC TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES—  
LISTINGS TO AID THE PUBLIC IN  
KNOWING WHO ARE WELL-  
TRAINED PHYSICIANS**

*San Francisco County Society Inaugurates a Telephone Listing.*—The San Francisco County Medical Association in its *Bulletin* of April 1931 outlines a plan for a separate listing in the public telephone directory, by means of which it would be possible for a citizen who was seeking the services of a well-trained physician or surgeon to be able to find one such by consulting such a listing. The plan recommended by the committee, consisting of Drs. R. Knight Smith, Harold Brunn and Alfred C. Reed, commends itself to us as having some very favorable and practical features. It would be of greatest value, however, if practically all members of the county society co-operated in trying out the plan.

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*Such a Listing Plan Is a Beginning.*—The plan may not be ideal in some respects, but it is at least a beginning in actual doing, and that is worth more than no end of theorizing and abstract discussion.

Years ago the editor was responsible for bringing the telephone exchange of the Los Angeles County Medical Association into existence in the belief that such a telephone exchange could be of real service to the community and to the profession. Whether or not the end results of such a telephone exchange would be greater, through the supplementary inauguration of such a special listing in the classified telephone directory—which listing or roster would gradually become known to the public as a list containing the names of only well-trained non-cultist physicians and surgeons—may be a somewhat difficult question to answer until the plan has been tried out. But on the point that there is great need of a listing of well-trained, non-sectarian physicians and surgeons to which the public could have easy and convenient access, there can be no doubt.

The plan proposed by the San Francisco County Society would seem to have possibilities for supplying a real need and would seem therefore to be worthy of consideration and discussion by other component county societies of the California Medical Association.

*Details Concerning the Plan.*—The following excerpt from the *Bulletin* gives further information concerning the plan:

"As classified listing stands at present, every physician listed in the main directory is listed under 'Physicians and Surgeons M. D.' in the classified section, and if he has an emergency call number, office hours or other desired information occupying another line in the list, he is charged fifty cents per month for this extra line.

"After study of the matter and conferences with the representatives of the company, the committee recommended the acceptance of the following arrangement with the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. In the section 'Physicians and Surgeons M. D.' and under the heading 'Active Members of the San Francisco County Medical Society' and a small block showing the seal of the society and a few explanatory words, will appear the names, in alphabetical order, of all members, in good standing at the time of closing the press on the directory, who have agreed to pay the company fifty cents per month for the extra listing. The society will pay the monthly charge for the heading.

"No name will be placed in this listing unless it has been submitted to the company by the society, and when a name has been so submitted the company will communicate with the member, asking if he cares for this special listing.

"The board of directors approved the arrangement and an agreement has been entered into with the company. It will be furnished a list of the members in good standing and will approach them individually to find out whether they wish to sign up for this listing.

"A final word of explanation. Each member's listing in the classified section of the directory will appear in future books as it does now (unless he changes it) whether he takes the new listing or not. If he accepts the new listing, his name will also appear under the heading, 'Active Members of the San Francisco County Medical Society,' as described above, and he will arrange with the representative of the telephone company for the listing.

"This listing is not obligatory. Each member is perfectly free to make his own choice."

**JAMAICA GINGER LEGISLATION—A NEW  
CALIFORNIA LAW**

*Twenty Thousand Cases of "Jake Paralysis" in the Last Year.*—In the November 1930 number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 823, mention was made of the announcement by the United States Public Health Service that the cause of the "Jamaica Ginger Paralysis," upon investigation has been found to be due to an adulterant not infrequently used in the manufacture of varnishes, and known as triorthocresyl phosphate. The estimated total of such "Jake Paralysis" cases which occurred in the United States during the last year was estimated to have exceeded the number of twenty thousand.

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*The Recent Experience in Los Angeles.*—In California more recent expression of this type of poisoning took place in Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles County Health Department took steps to bring urgency legislation into operation that would deter or would put a stop on the importation from other states of such adulterated